



February 10, 2021

Connecticut General Assembly  
Commerce Committee  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106-1562

Dear Senator Hartley and Representative Simmons and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Goodspeed Musicals in East Haddam, Connecticut, we write to you today in support of proposed H.B. No. 6119 AN ACT CONCERNING ARTS CULTURE AND TOURISM FUNDING.

Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musicals theatre and is the first theatre in the nation to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement). Goodspeed produces three musicals each season at The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam and additional productions at The Terris Theatre in Chester. We are a tourist destination in the lower Connecticut River Valley contributing more than \$42 million in total direct economic activity annually.

Goodspeed Musicals supports H.B. 6119 that would Allocate 25% of existing Lodging Tax into the Tourism Fund and divide 60% of fund to Tourism and 40% to Arts and Culture.

We know that arts, culture and tourism create significant revenue for the State of Connecticut. We are a proud member of the Arts and Culture sector which accounts 5% of Connecticut's economy. Together with our Flagship Producing Theatre partners, the Connecticut Arts Alliance and Culture Coalition of Southeastern Connecticut, we hope that the General Assembly recognizes that H.B. No. 6119 is a sound business investment into an industry that is a major revenue generator for the State of Connecticut returning \$7 for every \$1 invested.

Please invest in Connecticut's arts sector and help revitalize our cities and town, improve our quality of live, attract new visitors, and raise Connecticut's profile as a truly wonderful place to live and do business.

Thank you.

Donna Lynn Hilton  
Artistic Director

David B. Byrd  
Managing Director